

What is claimed is:

1. A method for forming a composite extrusion suitable for use as a vehicle weather strip, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a thermoset elastomer rubber;
 - extruding said thermoset elastomer rubber to form a weather strip main body member;
 - providing a crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin comprising a crosslinkable olefin homopolymer and a second polymeric component selected from the group consisting of a crosslinkable ethylene- α -olefin copolymer and a crosslinkable copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymers;
 - extruding said crosslinkable thermoplastic olefin to form an abrasion resistant decorative layer;
 - contacting said abrasion resistant decorative layer with said main body member;
 - at least partially crosslinking the olefin homopolymer and the second polymeric component of the thermoplastic polyolefin; and
 - at least partially curing said thermoset elastomer rubber by heating said main body member to the cure temperature of said thermoset elastomer rubber, thereby forming said composite extrusion.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing said crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin is performed by providing a moisture crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin comprising a moisture crosslinkable olefin homopolymer and a moisture crosslinkable ethylene- α -olefin copolymer and further wherein the step of at least partially crosslinking said thermoplastic polyolefin is performed by immersing said abrasion resistant decorative layer in a water or steam bath.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said moisture crosslinkable ethylene- α -olefin copolymer is a silane grafted ethylene-octene copolymer having a shore A hardness of about 70 to about 98 and a melt flow index of about 0.5 to about 5.0 g/10min.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein said moisture crosslinkable olefin homopolymer is one of a silane grafted polypropylene or a silane grafted polyethylene.
5. The method according to claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic polyolefin comprises from about 70% to about 90% by weight of said ethylene- α -olefin copolymer and from about 5% to about 15% by weight of said olefin homopolymer.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said thermoset elastomer rubber is an EPDM rubber.
7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of extruding said main body member from said EPDM rubber is performed utilizing an extrusion temperature of about 110°C.
8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of extruding said abrasion resistant decorative layer is performed utilizing an extrusion temperature of from about 200°C to about 260°C.
9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the step of at least partially curing said EPDM is performed utilizing an extrusion temperature of from about 180°C to about 270°C.
10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of at least partially curing said EPDM of said main body member is performed by heating said main body member to a temperature of about 200°C, maintaining said main body member at about 200°C for about 15 to 50 seconds, further heating said main body member to a temperature of about 220°C, maintaining said main body member at about 220°C for about 45 to about 2.4 minutes, and then cooling said main body member to a temperature of about 200°C and maintaining said main body member at about 200°C for about 15 to about 50 seconds.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of contacting said abrasion resistant decorative layer with said main body member is performed after said thermoset elastomer rubber is at least partially cured.
12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the steps of extruding said thermoset elastomer rubber and extruding said crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin are performed by simultaneously extruding said thermoset elastomer rubber and said crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin through a common extrusion die.
13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the step of at least partially crosslinking said thermoplastic polyolefin of said abrasion resistant decorative layer and the step of at least partially curing said thermoset elastomer rubber of said main body member is performed subsequent to the step of simultaneously extruding said thermoset elastomer rubber and said crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin through a common extrusion die.
14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of extruding said crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin is performed by extruding said crosslinkable thermoplastic as a sheet member.
15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising a lamination step wherein said sheet member is laminated to said main body member by use of an embossing wheel.
16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of said abrasion resistant decorative layer is from about 0.1 to about 1.5 mm.
17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the thickness of said abrasion resistant decorative layer is about 0.5 mm.
18. A method for forming a composite extrusion suitable for use as a vehicle weather strip, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a thermoset elastomer rubber;
 extruding a weather strip main body member from said thermoset elastomer rubber at a temperature about 110°C;
 providing a moisture crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin comprising a crosslinkable olefin homopolymer and a second polymeric component selected from the group consisting of a crosslinkable EPDM having a shore A hardness of about 70 to about 98 and a melt flow index of about 0.5 to about 5.0 g/10min and a silane grafted crosslinkable copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymer having a styrene content of from about 30% to about 50% and a melt flow index of about 1.6 g/10 min;
 extruding an abrasion resistant decorative layer from said moisture crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin at a temperature of about 200°C to about 260°C having a thickness of about 0.5 millimeters;
 contacting said abrasion resistant decorative layer with said main body member;
 at least partially crosslinking crosslinking the olefin homopolymer and the second polymeric component of the thermoplastic polyolefin by exposing them to a water or steam bath at a temperature of about 60°C to about 110°C; and
 at least partially curing said thermoset elastomer rubber by heating said main body member to the cure temperature of said thermoset elastomer rubber, thereby forming the composite extrusion.

19. A wear resistant composite extrusion suitable for use as a vehicle weather strip comprising an extruded and at least partially crosslinked thermoplastic polyolefin abrasion resistant decorative layer, wherein said thermoplastic polyolefin comprises a crosslinkable olefin homopolymer and a second polymeric component selected from the group consisting of a crosslinkable ethylene- α -olefin copolymer and a crosslinkable copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymer, bonded to and disposed immediately adjacent an extruded and at least partially crosslinked thermoset elastomer rubber main body member.

20. The composite extrusion according to claim 19, wherein said moisture crosslinkable polyolefin comprises a silane grafted polyethylene or polypropylene and a silane grafted ethylene-octene copolymer.
21. The composition extrusion according to claim 20, wherein said thermoplastic polyolefin comprises from about 70% to about 90% by weight of said ethylene-octene copolymer and from about 5% to about 15% by weight of said polyethylene homopolymer.
22. The composite extrusion according to claim 19, wherein said thermoset elastomer rubber is an EPDM rubber.
23. The composite extrusion according to claim 19, wherein said abrasion resistant decorative layer is a sheet member.
24. The composite extrusion according to claim 23 wherein said sheet member is laminated and bonded to said main body member.
25. The composite extrusion according to claim 19, wherein the thickness of said abrasion resistant layer is from about 0.1 to about 1.5 mm.
26. The composite extrusion according to claim 25, wherein the thickness of said abrasion resistant layer is about 0.5 mm.
27. A wear resistant composite extrusion suitable for use as a vehicle weather strip comprising an extruded and at least partially crosslinked moisture crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin abrasion resistant decorative layer, said thermoplastic polyolefin comprising a crosslinkable olefin homopolymer and a second polymeric component selected from the group consisting of a crosslinkable ethylene- α -olefin copolymer and a crosslinkable copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymer, bonded to and disposed immediately adjacent an extruded and at least partially cured thermoset elastomer rubber main body member, wherein said thermoset elastomer rubber has been extruded

at a temperature of about 110°C, said crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin has been extruded at a temperature of 200°C to about 260°C, and said crosslinkable thermoplastic polyolefin has been at least partially crosslinked in a steam or water bath maintained at a temperature of from about 60°C to about 110°C, and further wherein said abrasion resistant decorative layer is about 0.3 to about 0.7 mm thick.